

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Examiner's final Office Action of May 23, 2006 the Applicant respectfully submits the accompanying Terminal Disclaimer and Amendment to the claims, and the below Remarks.

Regarding Amendment

In the Amendment:

independent claim 1 is further amended to clarify that the casing mounts at least one controller for processing print data and controlling at least one of the printhead integrated circuits to print the processed print data. Support for this amendment can be found at page 20, lines 5-29, page 31, lines 9-10 and page 31, line 33-page 32, line 29 of the present specification;

dependent claims 53 and 54 are amended to conform with amended claim 1; and

dependent claims 2-39, 41, 43-52 and 55-77 are unchanged.

It is respectfully submitted that the above amendments do not add new matter to the present application, nor any new issues to the prosecution of the present application because the subject matter claimed in the amended claims was fully discussed by the Applicant in the Reply to the previous Office Action.

Regarding 35 USC 102(b) Rejections

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of amended independent claim 1, and claims 2-6, 10-15, 19, 20, 23-26, 28, 31-33, 35, 36, 41, 43, 44 and 50-77 dependent therefrom, is not disclosed by previously cited Silverbrook (US 6,439,908), for at least the following reasons.

Independent claim 1 has been further amended as discussed above to clarify that the printhead assembly of the present invention has a controller which processes the print data to be printed by the printhead integrated circuits, not one which merely routes data to the printhead integrated circuits, as is the case with the TAB films 22 and flexible PCB 54 disclosed by Silverbrook.

That is, as clearly disclosed at col. 4, lines 6-18, col. 6, lines 43-45, col. 7, lines 16-17 of Silverbrook, the “flexible PCB 54 is a single sided component that supplies the TAB films 22 of each printhead module 12 with data connections through contact pads”, “the flex PCB 54 terminates in the data connector 66” and “power and data connections are made to the flexible PCB 54” (emphasis added).

Thus, it is clear to one of ordinary skill in the art from the disclosure of Silverbrook that the PCB 54 is merely a data and power connection for the printhead modules, similar to the flex PCB 80 of the present invention which connects power and data to the PCBs 52 of each printhead integrated circuit 51 (see page 8, lines 3-12 of the present specification), and not a controller which processes print data and routes this processed print data to printhead integrated circuits as required by amended independent claim 1.

Further, the drive transistor and data connections which drive the chip disclosed by Silverbrook, as cited by the Examiner in the Response to Arguments section of the final Office Action, are also clearly mere data connections, not a controller as claimed.

Thus, the subject matter of amended independent claim 1, and claims 2-39, 41 and 43-77 dependent therefrom, is neither disclose nor suggested by Silverbrook.

Regarding 35 USC 103(a) Rejections

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of dependent claims 7-11, 16-18, 21, 22, 27, 29, 30, 34, 37-39 and 45-49 is not taught or suggested by Silverbrook et al. in view of one or more of Milan (US 5,658,158), Spivey (US 6,190,002), Silverbrook (WO 01/089849), Patil et al. (US 6,830,646), Lodal et al. (US 2003/0202034) and Silverbrook (US 6,916,082), for at least the above-discussed reasons and those discussed by the Applicant in the Reply to the previous Office Action.

Regarding Provisional Double Patenting Rejections

With respect to the provisional non-statutory double patenting rejections of pending claims 1-41 and 45-77 over the indicated claims of copending Application Nos. 10/760,233, 10/760,234, 10/760,217, 10/760,216, 10/760,212, 10/760,201, 10/760,243, 10/760,182, 10/760,272, 10/760,273, 10/760,185, 10/760,253, 10/760,208, 10/760,235, 10/760,209, 10/760,238, 10/760,262, 10/760,231, 10/760,200, 10/760,232 and 10/760,190, the Applicant

submits herewith a Terminal Disclaimer in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.321(c); the present application and these copending US applications being commonly owned by the Applicant.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's rejections have been traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Very respectfully,

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